

Oh Lord It's Hard to be humble—30th Sunday Ordinary Time Homily

(by Deacon Jim)

Oh Lord it is Hard to be Humble, when you are perfect in every way, I Can't wait to look in the mirror, cause I get better looking each day—a song that was recorded by Mac Davis a number of years ago which had a humorous message, but yet continues to speak to our lives today.

Today we hear in the Gospel a teaching on humility and inflating ourselves in the eyes of others. Jesus warns about the “look at me and how good I am attitude”. I am glad that we at St. Mary Magdalene in Waupaca or in the Catholic Church in general don't have any of that attitude

But do we?

Many times I have heard people say at churches I led, “Well I wonder why they have finally come back to church, they must need something” or “I am glad that we are not like that as we come every week, just not when we need something”. Sometimes I have heard new people going through the OCIA process say, “I never knew that I would be accepted into the “Catholic Country Club”.

You see we sometimes as Catholics inflate ourselves and live in our own pride of being super Catholics.(This week at my homily I will actually be blowing up a small Balloon each time I share the following)

I go to church every week

I listen to Relevant Radio every day

I watch EWTN every chance I get

I attend the Bible Study

I serve on several committees at Church

I say the rosary every night

All that is good, but is it all about us and puffing ourselves up to look good and not have a sense of God working through all of that in our lives to help others?

How about a different perspective? (I will use a slightly larger balloon to illustrate)

God, please help me as a sinner to worship you and all the good you have done in my life

God, please help to surround me with good media so that I can open my heart to grow more in your teachings

God, please help me to learn more about your scriptures so that I can help others to live in your word

God, please help me to serve others through different areas of your church

God, please help me to grow in my relationship with you through prayer and then I can pray for others as well

If we leave room for God to enter our lives, our lives will be much fuller and we won't just fill it up with ourselves and our pride

But the world challenges us to look more at ourselves which does not lead to happiness

In the classic movie, A Man for All Seasons, Thomas Moore tells a young man that he should be a teacher and perhaps a great one and the young man says, if I was who would know. Thomas Moore says you, your students, your friends and God, not a bad public there. You see the young man was searching for his own pride in doing something great for himself, but Thomas directed him to a much more fulfilling vocation.

In 1993, there was a Pulitzer Prize winning photograph of starving little child and vulture in Sudan.

The photographer found the starving child on the way to a food bank with vultures lurking behind the child. He took the picture and then walked away for fear of touching the little child.

The caption under the picture stated "A picture last Friday with an article about Sudan showed a little Sudanese child who had collapsed from hunger on the trail to a feeding center in Ayod. A vulture lurked behind her. Many readers have asked about the fate of the child. The photographer reports that the child recovered enough to resume the trek after the vulture was chased away. It is not known whether they reached the center."

He came back and he was acclaimed by the world with the Pulitzer Prize for the photo. Four months after winning the Pulitzer Prize, he took his own life, because he realized he could have reached out to others, and not just worry about his prize winning photo.

He let his own pride fill his balloon and unfortunately it popped.

What do we fill our lives spheres with, is it God or is it our own pride? Who will notice if we fill it with Godly things to share and grow the kingdom? The answer might be ourselves, our families, our friends and God. Not bad company to notice and that will lead to much more fulfilling lives and as St. Paul says the reward of the crown of righteousness in heaven.

God's Blessings---Deacon Jim